Daniel Reports

By W. C. (Dan) Daniel
Virginia Fifth District Congressman

[Each year, as the Christmas Season approaches, it has been our practice for Ruby to share with you her observation on Washinton's Holiday Season - WCD]

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WASHINGTON - When Dan reminded me it was time to get my thoughts together and make my own report from Washington, my first reaction was dismay. For weeks now, the papers and the television and radio programs have been full of reminders about not using electric lights. How can I write about Christmas (I thought), when Christmas and lights are so closely related?

I decided to set out on a search for Christmas in Washington without lights. The job was easier than I thought it would be.

Again this year, I visited the Botanical Gardens' annual Christmas showing. The many garden clubs and groups which had worked on it had approached the display with the idea of using as little light as possible.

The most striking things which caught your attention were the Christmas trees decorated in the styles of other countries.

From Germany, there was a tree hung entirely with ornaments made from paper - stars, globes, trangles fit together in three-dimensional effects, miniature Christmas packages so tiny you had to stand real close to appreciate the attention to detail, which was almost perfect. It reminded me of the trees we used to decorate at home, in a way. Our decorations were paper, too, but they were chains we children had cut out and pasted together with flour paste- made with love, it is true, but distinctly lacking the artistic quality of the German tree.

Another tree, from behind the Iron Curtain, was decorated entirely with ornaments made from straw - tiny people and animals, and odd-shaped figures. The combination of browns and tans on the rich green of the tree had a peculiarly restful effect on the eye. This tree, too, prodded my memory - of the cornhusk dolls my sisters and I had made, and played with by the hour.

Leaving the tree display, I went to see the dinner tables decorated for the season.

There were the expected elegant ones - all tinselly and sparkling with silver and crystal. Some were in formal good taste; others almost bubbled over with the good cheer and happiness of the decorator, and burst on your sight in a riot of color.

There was one I found particularly appealing. The table was covered with an antique patchwork quilt, and the colors were the subdued blues and berry colors that seem to emerge from fabric that has seen many seasons. The quilt itself was a work of art, and the table was set with pewterware. As I stood looking at it, a Christmas Imp intruded on my thoughts, to remind me what it would look like after three grandsons, armed with turkey gravy and cranberry sauce, had a go at it.

Another thought occurred as I wondered through the displays, and that was the almost miraculous effect Christmas exerts on all of us, regardless of country of birth. All year long, we may disagree among ourselves, but as the holiest season of our year approaches, we feel drawn together in a sort of a common reverence.

One of the surprises of a Christmas without so many lights is the way you notice the sound of Christmas. Of course we always hear the tinkle of the Salvation Army's bells, but somehow, when you step out of the house, you notice as well the Church chimes playing the old, familiar carols of Christmas. (Why are the high notes of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" always a little bit sharp?) Again, you are reminded of earlier Christmases, and the singing of carols together - off-key, perhaps, but with enthusiasm.

As I finished collecting my thoughts, one more occurred, and it is this: Certainly there are fewer electric lights in our homes and on our streets this year. But there are two kinds of light we do not acquire from the power company, and they remain. There is the light in a young child's eyes, which we seem to notice more as the Christmas season approaches. And there is the Light from that Bethlehem Stable. These are the lights no power on earth can extinguish.

Smokey Says:

Who helped prevent forest fires this year?

Hollywood

A Christmas wish - For the past - Happy memories - For the present - Health and Good cheer - For the Future - Peace on Earth.

This is our Christmas wish to the staff of the Times-Virginian and all its readers.

We are having our first big snow of the season. It's beginning to look like Christmas everywhere.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Torrence moved into their new home last week. We are so happy for this fine couple and wish for them many more happy years together.

We were deeply grieved last week when word came that Mrs. Hunter "Lillian" Paris had passed away. Deepest sympathy is extended each of her loved ones.

We invite all that can tc come to our Christmas program at Hollywood Saturday night, Dec. 22, at 8 o'clock.

Due to bad weather Sunday night there was no preaching at Hollywood.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and family, of Richmond, visited the W. H. Wingfields during the week end.

Mr. Grover Beasley, Jr. visited his mother, Mrs. Grover Beasley, Sr. Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Woodson visited Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Webb and family Tuesday.

Mrs. W. D. Repass and Mr. and Mrs. David Repass and Sherri were visitors Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Webb and Walker.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson celebrated their son, William's, 2nd birthday Sunday afternoon. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner, Delorious Ann and Dawn Deaner, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Justis and son, Jason, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield, Miss Julia Wingfield and Mrs. Charlie Bagby.

Mr. Walker Webb visited Mrs. A. G. Hancock and Donald and Mr. John Henry Webb Sujnday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Webb called in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Webb Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Webb were callers in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Carwile Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Maxwell and Mrs. Charlie Bagby visited the Jamerson Nursing Home in Pamplin, Mrs. Ray Baldwin and Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Elder Sunday.

Callers in the home of Mrs. Charlie Bagby Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson, Mrs. M. L. Covington, Mrs. Alfred Almond, Miss Brenda Almond, Mr. Thomas Woodall, Howard and Elmo Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield, Mrs. Raymond Franklin and Ricky and Pam Franklin.

Mrs. W. H. Wingfield, Mrs. Charlie Bagby and Miss Julia Wingfield visited love ones and friends Wednesday in the hospital and homes in Lynchburg. We wish for each one a very speedy recovery.

Mr. H. W. Jenkins visited his mother and sister last week at the Liberty House Nursing Home. We pray they both may soon be better.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Maxwell were dinner guests Sunday of Mrs. Charlie Bagby.

CAREFUL WITH COMMA!

That old carol really isn't "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen," but "God Rest (Keep) You Merry, Gentlemen."

Dancing with Joy

A Christmas carol might also be a Christmas dance.

Origin of the word "carol" itself seems to trace back to the French word, "caroler" meaning to dance, and carols of yesteryear may have been sung by carolers dancing in a circle.

Full of rejoicing, the carols we sing today literally dance with holiday merriment.

GREEN IS SAD

In Scandinavia, evergreens stand for sadness. Gala ribbons and papers, fruits and flowers, colorful balls and candles are preferred holiday decorations.

Russell, Elizabeth and
Jane Russell Covington

Sears Catalog Store
PERRY DUNCAN, OWNER
TRIANGLE PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

Now you can give a Bulova diamond watch for under $100.

A diamond watch need not be in the three and four figure category. Bulova's reputation for style and accuracy is maintained with this collection of moderately priced timepieces.

A. 1 diamond, 17 jewels. Jet black dial and strap.
B. 2 diamonds, 23 jewels, adjustable bracelet. $80.00
C. 2 diamonds, 23 jewels, linear design bracelet. $85.00
D. 4 diamonds, 23 jewels, tapered bracelet. $75.00

Gaines' Jewelers
MAIN STREET   APPOMATTOX, VA.

May the blessed silent peace of Christmas enter into your lives.

Appomattox Beauty Shop
Appomattox, Va.

Christmas Greetings

When the crisp fragrance of evergreens scents the air...when the lights of the holiday home say, "Welcome"...that's Christmas! Hoping it's merry and bright, full of delight, for our appreciated patrons, we send greetings and gratitude.

Moses Motor Company
Route 460 & Moses Street   Appomattox, Va.

Concord Squad Auxiliary Elect Officers

November, the Ladies ...iary of Concord Rescue ...elected officers for the ...year. Those elected were ...Smith, President; Phylis ..., Vice President; Becky ...Secretary; Barbara Stall- ...Treasurer; and Gail Ham- ...Public Relations.

...December 9, 1973 the ...rd Rescue Squad met ...their wives and families ...their annual Christmas ... At this time the ...iary presented a program ...ting of Christmas sing- ...comedy act, and, last but ...least, Santa Claus was ...nt for the children.

...lowing the program, the ...iary presented the Squad ...check in the amount of ... to be used for squad ...

...good time was enjoyed by ...

Janice Smith, President of the Concord Rescue Squad Auxiliary, is shown above as she presented a check for $500.00 to the Concord Rescue Squad. Accepting the check for the Squad was Reggie Spradlin, President of the Concord Rescue Squad, shown on the right above.

...ecreationists ...ace Energy ...hortage

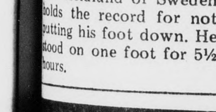
The Nation's vast recreation ... leisure industry will have ...emonstrate an abundance of ...ative and resourcefulness if ...s to escape long term ...cations as the result of the ...ion's energy crisis," James ..., Director of the Interior ...artment's Bureau of Out- ...r Recreation, told the ...th National Conference on ...ess to Recreational Waters.

...peaking in Fort Lauderdale, ...rida, on December 3, Watt ... BOR is coordinating the ...hering of information on the ... nature and scope of the ...rgy impact upon the Nat- ...'s diverse recreation - ...ed activities and indus- ...

"Some impacts of the energy ...ch are already evident," ... said. "Our study is more ...ly to clarify the scope of the ...blem than to produce solid ...rnatives to it."

The recreation industries ... experience adjustments ... relocations of resources ...sed by the energy short- ...," Watt said. "These losses ... be mitigated only by an ...ressive utilization of the ... that energy conservation ...wledge has to offer, such as ...s transportation to recrea- ... areas and the full utiliza- ... of closest -to-home facili- ... such as municipal parks ...lakes."

Even with the best of ...servation measures, re- ...tionists will have to realize ... they are competing for the ...rgy unit with agriculture, ...ional defense, transporta- ..., and basic manufacturing ...stries such as steel," Watt ...tinued. "When the time ...es to choose between ...taining recreation or meet- ... vital needs, the people will ... making the decisions."



Olof Heldlund of Sweden holds the record for not putting his foot down. He stood on one foot for 5½ hours.

Food Shopper

by Cathy B. Hinton
Va. Dept. of Agriculture

Christmas is a time of family traditions - caroling - the yule log - stockings hung by the fire place - tree decorating - midnight candlelight church service - family dinners. Here are a few traditions followed around the world.

In America, Christmas isn't Christmas without colorful stockings hanging on the mantel - one for every member of the family. Legend says that St. Nicholas threw gold coins down the chimney which fell into the stockings drying there. Gold coins have since been replaced with fresh fruit, cookies, toys, trinkets - you name it!

In merry old England, the arrival of the Boar's Head and the Flaming Steamed Fruit Pudding highlight the holiday season. Placed on gold or silver the boar's head is garnished with an orange in its mouth and surrounded with greenery.

Boar's heads are hard to come by, but a flaming steamed pudding is just as spectacular!

In Scandinavia, Christmas trees are trimmed with oranges, real candles, tiny elves, flags and bright ornaments.

In Switzerland, children place their shoes or clogs on the kitchen hearth or outside their bedroom door. In the morning they find them filled with fruit, nuts and sweetmeats. Begin this tradition with your children - their shoes could be placed by the fireplace, under the tree, or outside their bedroom door.

What are your family traditions? Perhaps you'd like to copy some of our neighboring countries' ideas to make your Christmas an international one.

Before closing I would like to extend to you best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

"ANY WEDNESDAY" TO BE PRESENTED BY BARN DINNER THEATRE

The Barn Dinner Theatre will kick-off the New Year with laughs galore on Wed., Dec. 26th with the long running Broadway comedy "Any Wednesday".

Put a business tycoon, his social climbing wife, his beautiful ballon loving once-a-week mistress and a young suitor for the mistress into a tax - write - off love nest, on any given Wednesday and you have the hit comedy "Any Wednesday" which kept Broadway laughing for two years.

The show will star Cindy Gibson, who has become a favorite with Barn audiences as the kooky, ballon toting mistress.

Jim Garth and Dorothy Johnston, another pair of Barn favorites will play the tycoon and his social-conscious wife. Jim Darras, who delighted audiences with his antics in the Barn's last production, rounds out this top-notch comedy.

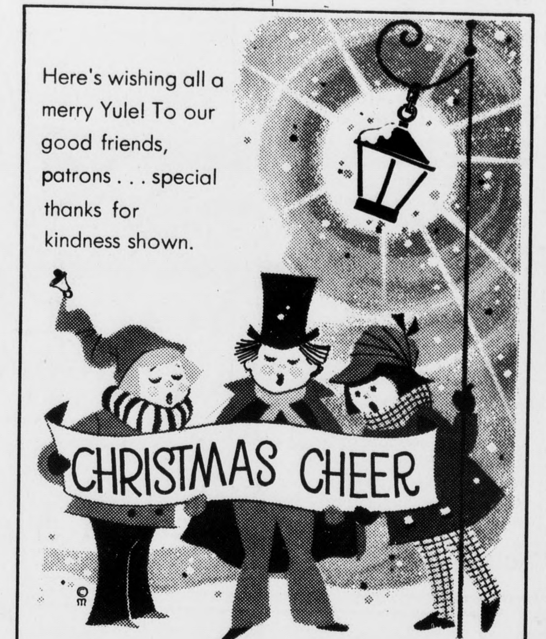
Reservations may be made by calling the Box Office 362-3333.

Proof Positive

A fanatic is a guy who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

-Tribune, Chicago.

Here's wishing all a merry Yule! To our good friends, patrons . . . special thanks for kindness shown.



Jamerson Insurance Agency
Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Bob) Jamerson   Appomattox, Va

Dinner Bell Meat Products, Inc.

1803 Holiday Street, Lynchburg, Va. 24505

says

Thank you to our many friends

both Farmers and Merchants

for making this another successful year.

We appreciate your business.

Thanks

A lighthearted Yule to all our friends . . . filled with all the season's goodies.

Sleepy Hollow Trailer Court
Spout Spring, Va.

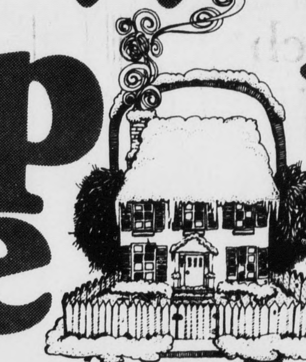
AT LAST!
a life safety fire alarm for the home

SmokeGard
...reliable low-cost ionization fire ...tector for home use. Sensitive ...zation detector triggers an 85 ...ecibel alarm at the first sign of ...mbustion or toxic gas. Provides ...ximum life safety and property ...otection for home-owners. ..."chirps" when batteries become ...weak. Developed by Statitrol, a ...ading manufacturer of ionization ...etectors for industry.

One unit will cover the bedroom area of most homes $56.00

Fire & Safety Equipment Co.
P. O. Box 42   Phone 993-2425
Concord, Va.

How to keep the home fires burning a little longer this winter.



We probably only have so much fuel to burn this winter. So Fidelity National Bank wants to help make the fuel we *do* have go a little further.

Effective immediately, Fidelity is offering a 1% reduction in the annual percentage rate on Property Improvement Loans used for energy conservation purposes.

This includes storm doors and windows, siding and insulation—anything that conserves energy.

Come see Fidelity National Bank for a reduced rate Property Improvement Loan. We want to help keep the home fires burning a little longer this winter.

Fidelity National Bank
Helping you grow helps us grow   Member FDIC   Equal Housing Lender